

SERPULA VERMICULARIS.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Animal Terebella.

Testa univalvis, tubulosa, adhærens, (sæpe isthmis integris passim intercepta.)

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 1264.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

SERPULA *testa* tereti, subulata, curvata, rugosa.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 1267.

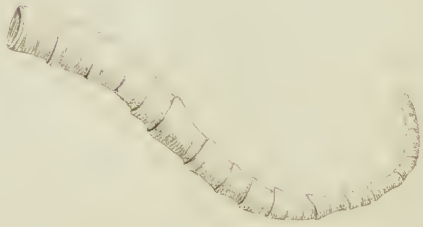
TUBUS VERMICULARIS.

Ellis Corall. t. 38. *f.* 2.

Specierum quas plurimas continet genus *Serpula* varium omnino et inæquale, diversa admodum est forma et magnitudo. Species quam magnitudine naturali depinximus, in litoribus Britannicis aliisque Europæis sæpe conspicitur, quasi in longitudinem agglutinata conchis majoribus, rupibus, lapidibus, reliquisque ejusmodi. Pulcherrima sunt tentacula quasi plumata, eodem colore quo corpus, scilicet vivide rubra; quæque, cum animal escam quæritat, insecta nempe parvula marina aliaque id generis, exferuntur;

feruntur; et affurgit inter tentacula tuba, margine ampliore, tubæ bellicæ non longe abfimilis, quam juxta est et alia fimplicior. Corpus reliquum intra testam contrahitur, et ad fimilitudinem hirudinis quodammodo accedit.





R. 1.

THE
VERMICULAR SERPULA.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Animal resembling a Terebella.

Shell univalve, tubular, adhering commonly to other substances, (in some species intercepted internally by dissepiments at uncertain distances.)

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

SERPULA with round, tapering, curved, wrinkled shell.

VERMICULAR SERPULA.

Common SERPULA or Worm-shell.

The genus Serpula, consisting of a great number of species of very different sizes and forms, is among the least regular of the testaceous tribe; and the inhabiting animals appear of a very different cast from those of any other shells. The species here figured in its natural size, is not uncommon on the British and other European coasts. It is found attached, or agglutinated as it were, longitudinally, to the larger shells,

shells, rocks, stones, or other substances. The animal is remarkable for the elegance of its plummy tentacula, which, as well as the body, are of a bright scarlet color, and are protruded when the creature is in quest of prey; viz. the smaller sea insects, &c. Between the tentacula arises a curious tube with a dilated opening not ill resembling the form of a trumpet; and near this appears another tube of a more simple structure. The remainder or body of the animal is imbedded in the shell, and bears a distant resemblance to a leech.